

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A home entertainment system, comprising:
at least one wireless system server having at least a primary communication system; and
at least one wireless component having at least a primary communication system configured for communicating with the primary communication system of the server, wherein the component sends configuration information to the server using a secondary communication system that is out-of-band with the primary systems.
2. The system of Claim 1, wherein the server sends configuration information using a secondary communication system to the component.
3. The system of Claim 1, wherein the configuration information includes at least one of: an encryption key, an address, and an identification.
4. The system of Claim 1, wherein the secondary communication system includes at least one removable media drive and at least one media component removably engageable with the drive.

5. The system of Claim 1, wherein the secondary communication system is an infrared (IR) system, each of the server and the component having at least one respective IR port, the configuration information being exchangeable through the ports.

6. The system of Claim 5, wherein the configuration information is exchangeable only when the ports are aligned with each other in line of sight of each other.

7. The system of Claim 5, further comprising a remote control device establishing a relay node between the ports.

8. The system of Claim 1, wherein the secondary communication system is a near field system that requires a communication distance between the component and server of less than about twenty five feet to permit exchange of the configuration information.

9. The system of Claim 8, wherein the configuration information is exchanged automatically between the server and component when the distance between them is within the communication distance.

10. The system of Claim 8, wherein the configuration information is exchanged between the server and component only when the distance between them is within the

communication distance and a user manipulates at least one button on at least one of the server, and the component.

11. The system of Claim 1, wherein the secondary communication systems are personal area networks (PAN).

12. The system of Claim 1, wherein the primary communication system is an 802.11 system.

13. The system of Claim 12, wherein the server is established by a set-top box receiver.

14. A home entertainment system, comprising:

at least one wireless system server having at least a primary communication system; and

at least one wireless component having at least a primary communication system configured for communicating with the primary communication system of the server, wherein the component sends configuration information to the server using the primary communication system, at least one of: the server, and the component, determining a value of at least one physical parameter of a signal received from the

other and affirming proper exchange of information only if the value indicates that the server and component are within an acceptably close distance of each other.

15. The system of Claim 14, wherein the parameter is at least one of: a received signal delay spread, and a received distribution of signal strengths.

16. The system of Claim 15, wherein when the value indicates a Rician distribution, a valid configuration information exchange is indicated.

17. The system of Claim 14, wherein to effect the exchange of confidential information, a user must manipulate a button on either or both the server and component synchronously with configuration information transfer.

18. A method for communication between a home network server and at least one home network component, comprising:

after the successful exchange of configuration information, communicating audio/video information over a wireless link of a primary wireless communication system; and

exchanging configuration information using a wireless link that is out-of-band with the primary wireless communication system.

19. The method of Claim 18, wherein the configuration information includes at least one of: an encryption key, an address, and an identification.

21. The method of Claim 18, wherein the secondary communication system includes at least one removable media drive and at least one media component removably engageable with the drive.

22. The method of Claim 18, wherein the secondary communication system is an infrared (IR) system, each of the server and the component having at least one respective IR port, the configuration information being exchanged through the ports.

23. The method of Claim 22, comprising exchanging the configuration information only when the ports are aligned with each other in line of sight of each other.

24. The method of Claim 22, further comprising establishing a relay node between the ports using a remote control device.

25. The method of Claim 18, wherein the secondary communication system is a near field system that requires a communication distance between the component and server of less than about twenty five feet to permit exchange of the configuration information.

26. The method of Claim 25, comprising automatically exchanging the configuration information between the server and component when the distance between them is within the communication distance.

27. The method of Claim 25, comprising exchanging configuration information between the server and component only when the distance between them is within the communication distance and a user manipulates at least one button on at least one of the server, and the component.

28. The method of Claim 18, wherein the secondary communication systems are personal area networks (PAN).

29. The method of Claim 18, wherein the primary communication system is an 802.11 system.

30. The method of Claim 18, wherein the server is established by a set-top box receiver.